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RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHINGTON DC PRIORITY
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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 ISLAMABAD 000970

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TAGS: [PGOV](#) [FK](#) [PREL](#)

SUBJECT: POTENTIAL PAKISTANI PRIME MINISTER YOUSEF RAZA
GILLANI

Classified By: Anne W. Patterson, Reasons 1.4 (b), (d)

1. (C) Summary: This is one of several profiles on political leaders who will play a large role in Pakistan's new government. The Pakistan F
Career History

12. (SBU) Gillani entered politics as a Member of the Central Working Committee of the United Muslim League (1978) and was elected in 1983 as
Gillani was elected to the National Assembly as an independent in the non-party elections of 1985 and was appointed Minister for Housing and

13. (SBU) In 1988, Gillani clashed with then Pakistan Muslim League (PML) Prime Minister Muhammad Khan Junejo and decided to join the PPP. F
Gillani won a National Assembly seat in 1990, defeating then-head of the Gillani family, Makhdoom Syed Hamid Raza Gillani. He was reelected
under Benazir Bhutto. Gillani lost his seat in the 1997 election, but has been Vice Chairman of the PPP since 1998.
Gillani was just elected to the National Assembly from Southern Punjab's Multan district, where he defeated an incumbent who was a Federal Mi

14. (C) Gillani was arrested on February 10, 2001 under corruption charges and sentenced by an accountability court to five years imprisonment
Personal History

15. (SBU) Gillani married in 1979 and has five children, including triplet sons. His eldest son, Syed Abdul Qadir Gillani attended Cambridge

16. (C) Gillani was born in Karachi on June 9, 1952. He attended school in Multan at St. Mary's Convent and La Salle, a Christian missionary
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17. (C) Comment: Gillani is a charismatic leader with strong popular support, particularly in the southern Punjab and parts of northern Sindh

18. (C) Gillani, who sees Qureshi as a late entry to the PPP, a potential turncoat with few political principles, and a "false" spiritual l
Gillani has been troubled by Zardari's public embrace of Shah Mehmood Qureshi as leader of the Punjab PPP in the aftermath of Benazir's assass

19. (C) Zardari is equally upset that Makhdoom Amin Faheem, who held the same rank as Gillani within the party hierarchy at the time of Benaz
PATTERSON